

19 March 2010

IN FOCUS

- Super-G Races Fill Friday
- Sweden Wins at Wheelchair Curling Tiebreak
- Czech Republic Takes Fourth at Ice Sledge Hockey
- Vancouver Athletes in Words

ALPINE SKIING FILLED WITH SUPER-G

In the Men's Super-G (Visually Impaired) race today, Nicolas Berejny (FRA, B2) with guide Sophie Troc won the gold medal, their first of the Vancouver Games. Berejny described his first medal as "very good because we had two gold medals four years ago and it's cool." Slovakia's Jakub Krako (B2) with guide Juraj Medera and Miroslav Haraus with guide Martin Makovnik won silver and bronze respectively. It's Krako and Medera's third medal of the Games and Haraus and Makovnik's first ever Paralympic medal.

A familiar face was on the podium for the Men's Super-G (Standing), as Gerd Schoenfelder (GER, LW5/7-2) won his third gold and fourth medal of the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games with a time of 1:20.11. "Every race when I win, I'm happy," he said. Winning silver and bronze were Vincent Gauthier-Manuel (FRA, LW6/8-2) and Hubert Mandl (AUT, LW4) respectively.

Both Akira Kano (JPN, LW11) and Taiki Morii (JPN, LW11) won their second medals at Whistler Creekside with the gold and bronze medals, respectively, in the Men's Super-G (Sitting). Finishing between the two Japanese skiers was Vancouver 2010 double gold medallist Martin Braxenthaler (GER, LW10-2) with his first silver.

In the Women's Super-G (Visually Impaired), Anna Kuliskova (CZE, B2) with guide Michaela Hubacova won bronze, and the Czech Republic's first Alpine Skiing medal of the Games. Winning gold and silver in this event was Henrieta Farkasova (SVK, B3) with guide Natalia Subrtova and Viviane Forest (CAN, B2) with guide Lindsay Debou.

Triple gold medallist Lauren Woolstencroft (CAN, LW3-1) added another gold to her collection as she won the Women's Super-G (Standing) race. Following Woolstencroft was Melania Corradini (ITA, LW6/8-1) with the silver. "For me, this is the first important medal of my career," said Corradini. Andrea Rothfuss (GER, LW6/8-2) won the bronze.



The final race of the day, the Women's Super-G (Sitting), saw Claudia Loesch (AUT, LW11) raced to her second gold medal of the Games. Alana Nichols (USA, LW11) won the silver medal, and was followed by Anna Schaffelhuber (GER, LW11) with the bronze. It was the thirteenth medal for Germany's Alpine Skiing team, but the first Paralympic medal for the young Schaffelhuber.

"I'm so surprised and happy," said Schaffelhuber, "It means everything."



SWEDEN ADVANCES TO SEMIFINALS

Sweden defeated Italy 6:5 this afternoon as the only game in the tiebreak session. Italy started off strong, scoring a triple in the first end after Sweden's skip Jalle Jungnell hit Italy's guard with both his throws.

After exchanging several singles, a steal by Sweden in the fifth end allowed them to stay one behind after the seventh end. Italy held the hammer in the last end, but an excellent draw behind two guards by Sweden's alternate Patrik Kallin, who was throwing second, pressured Italy into attempting a double take-out off a Swedish guard. That shot would backfire, however, when it pushed the guard stone into an Italian rock and allowed Sweden to lie two. Sweden would guard perfectly and steal two for the win.



Sweden advances to the semifinal round tomorrow, where they will face Canada for the right to play for gold.

CZECH REPUBLIC DEFEATS KOREA

In a full day that placed four teams in their final positions, athletes were fighting each second on the ice at UBC Thunderbird Arena. Taking fourth place was the Czech Republic team, winning 2:1 against Korea. The game gave Korea fifth place at the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.

Goals were scored by each team in third period by Korea's Sang-Hyeon Park and Czech player Erik Fojtik. The intense game for fourth and fifth place saw the teams head into overtime, where Michal Geier scored the tiebreaking goal to give the Czech Republic the win.

In the games determining the seventh and eighth places, athletes from Italy dominated the ice, winning 4:0 against Sweden.

The Bronze medal will be determined later today between Canada and Norway. Tomorrow will be the final day of Ice Sledge Hockey, with the gold medal game to start at 12:00.

IPC ACADEMY HOLDS INAUGURAL ACCESSIBILITY SUMMIT

The first day of the IPC Academy's Accessibility Summit took place at the Marriot Hotel in Vancouver today, bringing together leaders from upcoming Paralympic Games, including the London 2012 Paralympic Games Chairperson Lord Sebastian Coe, Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer Dmitry Chernyshenko, as well as IPC President Sir Philip Craven. The inaugural summit was designed to provide detailed insight into the complex task of developing accessible facilities for the delivery of the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.



During the summit, participants were able to understand how the Paralympic Games can act as a lead promoter of accessibility, as well as master planning and the application to various projects. Being four years away, Mr. Chernyshenko said that the next Winter Games in Sochi will promote the new standards set in the coastal city of the Black Sea.

"Sochi 2014 aims to hold innovative and modern Games," he said. "We will not just see incredible Paralympic Sport, but social change in our country."



Mr. Chernyshenko also said that any city or country in the world will be able to apply the accessibility concept that has been developed.

Along the same lines, Sir Philip said that the Paralympic Games act as a flagship for accessibility.

“Relating to the vision of the IPC, ‘to enable Paralympic athletes to achieve sporting excellence and inspire and excite the world’, the word ‘enable’ is perfectly connected to accessibility,” Sir Philip said. “The stage is not just the venue, but it is the whole Games experience. And the Games can be used as a vehicle for long-lasting change for everyone.”

PARALYMPIC MEDALS AT IPC EXHIBITION

The Snow Dome that is housing the official IPC Exhibition in Whistler Village Mountain Square received a visit today from the Paralympic medals for the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games. More than 1,100 visitors passing through the white igloo had the chance to touch and feel the prized possession of every winning athlete, and the resulting creative work of the medal designer.



Along with having a look at the Paralympic medals, visitors could also test out Ice Sledge Hockey on a sledge installation which was designed to provide a hands-on Paralympic experience for everyone. Additionally, television monitors are running various video clips of historical moments in the Paralympic Movement. The exhibition also has prostheses and wheelchairs on display, as well as the aforementioned opportunity to sit and play in an original sledge manufactured by Otto Bock Healthcare.

Titled “Spirit in Motion – Discover What Moves Us”, the IPC Exhibition is located in the middle of Whistler Village, and is supported by IPC Worldwide Partner Otto Bock.

PARALYMPIC ATHLETES

Aileen Neilson is from Scotland, and has managed to keep family support nearby even when they are far away. Two teddy bears, one in a red jumper and the other in blue, watch with the spectators as Great Britain’s fourth player curls. They are named William and Daisy, after Neilson’s parents. Neilson comes from a family of curlers - both her grandfather and uncle represented their country in Curling in the past. As such, Neilson has been Curling ever since she was young. She is also an accomplished Carriage Driver, having represented Great Britain in the World Championships in 2004 and 2005.



Karolina Wisniewska is one of Canada’s most accomplished athletes in Alpine Skiing. At the Salt Lake 2002 Paralympic Winter Games she won two silver and two bronze medals. She also won two silver medals at the Nagano 1998 Paralympic Winter Games. In 2004, Wisniewska sustained a severe concussion and decided to retire. She went on to work for the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games, which consequently inspired her back into racing competitively. She has reached her latest goal by finishing with a bronze medal in the Women’s Slalom Standing category. After the win she said, “it’s special to me



because I retired the year after Salt Lake City. I was out of the game for a long, long time. As my teammate Chris Williamson pointed out, this is my fifth consecutive Paralympic medal, even though the last one was eight years ago!"

CALENDAR

20 March	Alpine Skiing – Super Combined	Whistler Creekside
20 March	Ice Sledge Hockey – Gold Medal (12:00-14:30)	UBC Thunderbird Arena, Vancouver
20 March	Cross-Country Skiing (Women’s 3x2.5km Relay; Men’s 1x4km + 2x5km Relay)	Whistler Paralympic Park
20 March	Wheelchair Curling – Semifinal (10:00-13:00); Bronze and Gold Medal Games (15:30-18:30)	Vancouver Paralympic Centre
20 March	LiveCity Downtown Vancouver (13:00-21:00)	Corner of Georgia+Cambie Streets, Vancouver
20 March	IPC Exhibition	Snow Dome, Whistler

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE OF ONLINE COVERAGE AT www.ParalympicSport.TV

Saturday 20 March		
12:00	Ice Sledge Hockey - Gold Medal Game	LIVE
Proudly presented by Visa and Samsung		
 		

Please note: All times are PST. This schedule is subject to change

PREPARE TO BE INSPIRED

The Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games are broadcast on www.ParalympicSport.TV.

BECOME A FAN ON FACEBOOK: Stay up to date with what happens on ParalympicSport.TV and become a fan on Facebook! Be the first to get news and videos from the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, with additional LIVE programming information. Simply log in to Facebook, type in the address www.facebook.com/ParalympicSport.TV, and click on the “Become a Fan” button at the top of the page.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Lieven Coudenys and Rob Prezioso return as the IPC’s official photographers during the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games. Photos of daily events and competitions can be viewed and purchased from Lieven Coudenys and Rob Prezioso through their respective websites. For more information about Lieven Coudenys, please visit his official website at www.coudenys.be/paralympics. For more information about Prezioso Photography, please visit the official website at www.prezioso.com.au.

TICKETS

For information about tickets, please visit www.vancouver2010.com/paralympic-games/tickets.



VANCOUVER 2010 INFORMATION

For more information on the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, please visit www.vancouver2010.com.

PARALYMPIC INFORMATION

For more information about the Paralympic Movement, please visit www.paralympic.org. For more detailed information on this Newsletter, please send an email to jeff.wolfshohl@paralympic.org.